

**Testimony of Marie C. O'Brien, President, Connecticut Development Authority
To the Commerce Committee
March 8, 2011**

**Raised HB 6525
AN ACT CONCERNING THE CONTINUANCE OF THE MAJORITY LEADERS' JOB
GROWTH ROUNDTABLE**

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on HB 6525, **AN ACT CONCERNING THE CONTINUANCE OF THE MAJORITY LEADERS' JOB GROWTH ROUNDTABLE**.

We support the continuing efforts to keep job retention and job growth a priority focus for economic development. As you know, the State of Connecticut is well known for its high-tech manufacturing companies. CDA has used the synergy with SBIR, and its role with the state's economic development Collaborative Management team (DECD, CDA, CII, SBIR, CCEF), to generate potential transactions for business growth. Since their move to CII, the SBIR office has increased the amount of dollars brought into the state for federal grants and commercialization programs. We hope to see them grow even faster.

We believe that the SBIR should continue to be firmly anchored with the economic development team and remain at Connecticut Innovations, well positioned to provide their customers with access to grant and pre-seed funding at CI as well as venture capital and angel investments. In addition to these connections, the CT SBIR Office has nurtured strong relationships with universities, global businesses and 11 federal agencies. Their leadership has earned our state national acclaim by winning the coveted SBIR Tibbetts Award and two national SBIR conferences hosted in Hartford.

Another important aspect of this bill is the change in the definition of "life sciences". We support the inclusion of biomedical engineering and the manufacture of medical devices.

Thank you.